Reduction in price of Diloxanide Furoate

536. SHRIMATI KAILASHPATI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred question 1135 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 7th May, 1992 and state :

(a) whether it is a fact that price of Diloxanide Furoate was increased, based on the study of cost structure of M/s. Boots, Camlin and Unique;

(b) whether it is a fact that M/s. Boots and M/s. Unique stopped production of this drug three years back; and if so, what steps were taken to reduce its price;

(c) whether it is a fact that the price was increased in September, 1991, and

(d) what steps have been taken to reduce the price ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHINTA MOHAN) : (a) and (c) The price of bulk drug Diloxanide Furoate was increased from 472.00 per Kg. to 501.00 per Kg. w.e.f. 25-9-91 due to impact of change of exchange rate of Indian rupee against major foreign currencies.

(b) and (d) To the extent information is available, M/s. Boots was producing this bulk drug upto 1989-90 M/s. Camlin is a SSI Unit the production of which is not monitored in this Ministry. The production details for the years 1990-91, and 1991-92 are not available. No report has been received so far regarding sale of this bulk drug at a price lower than the notified price.

537. [*Transferred to 4th December, 1992*]

Revamped Public Distribution System

538. SHRI MD. SALIM : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) what is the total number of families added in the Revamped Public Distribution System (RPDS); and

(b) what is the amount increase in the supply ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED) : (a) As per reports received from the State Governments/UT Administrations upto 15th November, 1992 about 19.50 lakh families have been issued ration cards in the Revamped PDS areas in addition to the existing ration cards.

(b) The Central Government has earmarked 2 million tonnes of rice and wheat for allocation to the Revamped PDS areas in addition to the quantity of rice and wheat allocated by the State/UTs to these areas.

Legislation on Consumer Protection Act

539. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have considered the recommendations of Working Group which has suggested amendments to the Consumer Protection Act, 1986 and whether Goverument are considering any legislation to be introduced in Parliament in this regard ?

(b) if so, the details of the amendments proposed to be lagislated upon; and

(c) by when the legislation is likly to be introduced ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED) : (a) to (c) The recommendations of the Working Group are under consideration of the Central Government. The proposed amendment will be sent for the consideration of the Cabinet soon and thereafter the Consumer Protection (Amendment) Bill will be introduced in the Parliament.